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Security Information

Country: USSR

Subject: Isolated Military Districts in the Tuva Autonomous Oblast/ Strict Control of Local Civilians.

Place Acquired: Teheran

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Date Acquired:

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Date of Info: February-April 1953

Source

1. "Four isolated military districts, subordinated to the Soviet Ministry of Defence, are known to exist in the Tuva Autonomous Oblast on the Mongolian border. They are
 - (a) the district of Kyzyl, where a chemical combine for coal products is in operation,
 - (b) the district of Chadan, where there is a combine of copper products,
 - (c) the district of Tannu-ula, where there is a rocket testing ground,
 - (d) the district of Sayan, where there is a railway construction base (the 'Sibzheldorstroy').
2. "In the four districts about 80,000 are men known to have been employed during April 1953. In the Kyzyl and Chadan areas, this labor force included about 12,000 prisoner-workers.
3. "Strong military garrisons, composed of engineer, air force and rocket personnel, maintain a strict control of the areas. The civilian population is confined to 46 large sovkhoses or kolkhoses and has limited freedom of movement in the 'pre-frontier' belt.
4. "The administration of these sovkhoses and kolkhoses is entirely in the hands of Russians. In the three pre-frontier rayons adjoining the Mongolian National Republic, where, for propaganda sake, no kolkhoses have been established, special commissars of the Obkom (oblast committee) have been appointed and given the power to evict 'unreliable' persons from the area. During the three-month period of February-April 1953, the commissar, (fnu) Pankov, evicted over 2,000 inhabitants from this belt on charges of smuggling and illegal border crossing."

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